

Ross & Getty Building
3005-11 M Street N.W.
Georgetown
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-113 HABS
DC
GEO
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington Planning and Service Center
1730 North Lynn Street
Arlington, Virginia

ROSS AND GETTY BUILDING

Location: 3005-11 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.
(M Street was formerly Bridge Street)

Present Owners: Historic Georgetown, Inc. (3005-07)
David J. Lavezzo (3009-11)

Present Use: Restaurant (second and third floors of 3001-05);
Delicatessen (3011); Art Gallery (3005);
Apartments (3007)

Statement of
Significance: This early 19th century building in combination
with its late 18th century neighbor, 3001-3003,
forms the finest remaining example of early
architecture in the commercial district of
Georgetown.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: This property is located in Square 1209, Lot 806, parts of old lots 18 and 19. The following is an incomplete chain of title with references made to records in the Recorder of Deeds Office, District of Columbia.

1793 Deed December 20, 1792 recorded March 6, 1793 in
Liber A folio 194

William Warman Berry and wife Lucy

To

Charles Magruder

1801 Deed June 27, 1801 recorded November 2, 1801 in
Liber G folio 342

Eleanor Magruder, widow and relict of

Charles Magruder

To

Thomas Sim Lee

Lots 17, 18, 19

1810 Deed February 17, 1810 recorded February 28, 1810 in
Liber Y folio 45

Thomas S. Lee

To

Andrew Ross

Robert Getty

1812 Deed of partition September 23, 1811 recorded
March 4, 1812 in Liber AC folio 247

Andrew Ross and wife Hannah

To

Robert Getty and wife Margaret

- 1815 Deed September 2, 1815 recorded September 27, 1815
in Liber AK folio 473
Robert Getty
To
Darius Clagett
- 1864 Deed December 10, 1863 recorded January 20, 1864
in Liber NCT 24 folio 346
James Towles
Wm. H. Gurnall
Charles Bradley
Edward Hall
Wm. S. Holliday
Commissioners
To
Thomas J. Fisher
"Recite grantors appointed commissioners by S.C.D.C.
in re: petition by adult heirs at law of Darius Clagett,
deceased to divide said estate. Sold by public sale."
- 1866 Deed November 23, 1865 recorded January 12, 1866
in Liber R.M.H. 5 folio 420
John E. Carter et ux Emaline
To
James Goddard
- 1866 Deed December 20, 1865 recorded February 26, 1866
in Liber R.M.H. 16 folio 24
Thomas J. Fisher et ux Charlotte M.
To
Michael F. Moran
- 1872 Michael F. Moran died siezed, intestate
October 6, 1872
leaving widow Margaret F. Moran
and heirs at law - his children
James P. Moran, John F. Moran, Michael V. Moran,
Patrick J. Moran, Joseph M. Moran and Mary A. Moran
(now Mary A. Keleher)
Joseph M. Moran died October 13, 1900 testate unmarried
and by will devised all estate to mother Margaret F.
Moran
Margaret F. Moran died March 3, 1919 intestate
leaving only heirs at law her children
John F. Moran, Michael V. Moran and Mary A. Keleher
and her grandchildren Margaret M. Moran and Raymond J.
Moran the only children and sole heirs of her deceased
son Patrick J. Moran who died intestate March 9, 1905.
leaving his widow Mary Elizabeth Moran.

John F. Moran died testate March 16, 1919 unmarried -
devised to sister
Mary A. Keleher

James P. Moran -- son of Margeret F. Moran died
intestate, unmarried May 12, 1913

1933 Deed August 18, 1933 recorded September 9, 1933
in Liber 15761 folio 424
Mary A. Keleher nee Moran
Michael V. Moran
Mary Elizabeth Moran, widow of Patrick J. Moran
Margaret M. Moran and Raymond J. Moran
Matilda Moran, wife of said Michael V. Moran
Amelia Moran, wife of Raymond J. Moran
To
David John Lavezzo, present owner

2. Date of erection: Between 1810 and 1812. "Said Getty have the westernmost house and buildings of the 2 houses erected by said Ross and Getty on said parts of lots 18, 19." (Deed of partition March 4, 1812 in Liber AC folio 247). Ross and Getty purchased the property in 1810 (Deed February 28, 1810 in Liber Y folio 45).
3. Architect: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: None known.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: Extensive stabilization and remodeling in 1955. The following permits were found in the Building Permit Department, District Building, District of Columbia:

174857 October 3, 1934 for repair of the bases and lower parts of 2 show windows at 3005 and 3005-1/2 - frame; no enlargement. Roof is given as slate.
218247 November 14, 1938 to install a 3' x 5' skylight and shaft from basement to roof of first floor porch. 12" wall at first floor.
A17419 October, 1950 for repair to 3009.
A40848 March 23, 1953 to erect a brick retaining wall adjacent to the property line but on owner's land; 10 feet high.
A39897 April, 1953 to remodel fronts of stores and to remove the upper portion of the rear to provide garden entrances to future apartments for \$44,000.
A59962 October 14, 1954 for a cedar screen fence 6-1/2' high.

In 1955 the second floor of 3005 was leased to Mr. France Anderson for France's Restaurant. Interiors were designed by Mrs. Greer of Middleburg, Virginia and the architects were Howe, Foster and Snyder [The Georgetown, October 27, 1955].

6. Important old views: None found.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

Magistrate Getty is said to have sold Holland Gin on the premises. In 1865 the tenant in 3005 was Mrs. W. A. Douglass, who ran a boarding house and Thomas H. Donohue, and Company, plumbers and gasfitters. Hendershot and Crowell, grocers, were located at 3007.

In 1952 the building was endangered by a plan to raze it to make room for a parking lot; however, a group of citizens formed an organization which they named Historic Georgetown, Incorporated, and purchased 3005-07, together with the adjoining building, 3001-03. [Washington Post, April 6, 1952]

Prepared by Dr. James Philip Noffsinger
Architect
National Park Service
August 16, 1966

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Saved from razing in 1952 by a local citizen's organization, the Ross and Getty Building--along with a neighboring structure to the east--stands today not only as a fine example of early 19th century Georgetown commercial architecture, but as a tribute to a private group of concerned residents determined to preserve the historic and architectural integrity of Old George Town.
2. Condition of fabric: Generally in good condition and well-maintained.

B. Technical Description of Exterior: Note: As the structure is a double building, the east half, at 3005 and 3007 M Street Northwest, will be evaluated as being representative of the entire Ross and Getty Building.

1. Overall dimensions. 27'-7" (three and one-half bays) x 50', three and one-half stories.
2. Foundations: Original foundations are of stone rubble masonry except for brick south foundation wall; later alteration and patching is of common bond brick with headers occurring at intervals of four, five or six courses. Brick wall 1' thick running east-west dividing basement into north and south rooms does not appear to

be bearing wall. Square 1'-4" brick piers are bearing elements.

3. Wall construction: Red brick, Flemish bond masonry: street floor facade has been repaired.
4. Chimneys: Brick chimney above party wall (shared with 3003 M Street) measures 1'-8" x 9'-0"; brick cap bevels inward at top. Seven clay pots protrude above upper rim of chimney.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: 3005: Masonry 3'-2" opening is headed by stone splayed four-vousoir-and-keystone-design solid lintel. Glazed transom and six-paned modern wooden door with single lower panel is set within deep wooden cased reveal. Doorway dates from recent remodeling, but lintel appears to be original one relocated.
3007: Six-paneled modern wooden door is set into 3'-6" masonry opening. Decorative stone archivolts with prominent keystone defines wooden framed semi-circular seven-pane glazed transom.

Stone sills under both doors.

- b. Windows and shutters: Eight-paned fixed wooden sash window on street floor set in 3'-3" opening corresponding to width of upper windows. Sixteen-paned fixed wooden sash shop window set in 6'-6" opening has wooden lintel with console "supports." Both windows recent. Second-floor windows have nine-over-six-light double-hung wooden sash. Window opening over large shop window is elongated by inset wooden panel below bottom sash. Third-floor windows have six-over-six-light double-hung wooden sash. Windows above first floor have splayed stone four-vousoir-and-keystone-design solid lintels and (apparently) stone sills. Shuttered false windows in central bay of entire block abut party wall. Pintles remain as evidence of earlier shutters on upper floors.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Slate-covered gabled roof; ridge runs east-west.
 - b. Framing: (Apparently) wood.

- c. Cornice, eaves: Simple brick dentil cornice. Metal gutter shares downspout with 3003 M Street.
- d. Dormers: Two gabled dormers not aligned with lower bays. Windows are six-over-six-light double-hung wooden sash. Openings are round-arched with semi-circular wood infill above glazed area. Gables and sides are slate-covered.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

- 1. Floor plans: Basement is divided into north and south rooms by brick wall. Access to street floor is by straight-flight stair along party wall in northwest corner of building.

Street floor is in effect a single space although visually divided by structural columns with later segmental arcade. Second floor, originally side hall plan, has been closed off and is dining room of restaurant at 3003 M Street. Only remaining access is cut through party wall. Upper floors are partitioned off into front and rear rooms with baths occupying front spaces over stair hall.

- 2. Stairways: Stair hall behind entrance at 3007 M Street is not expressed on upper facade, since it occupies rear area only above first floor. Main flight of eighteen risers ends at landing from which four more steps curve. Thirteen risers lead to landing on north wall from which eight more ascend to third floor. Nine risers, a landing, and eight final risers complete the stairway to the garret.
- 3. Flooring: Irregular width oak.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster finish; ceiling of basement is only 6-1/2 feet in the clear.
- 5. Doorways and doors. Paneled wooden doors are set in wooden casings. Door on second floor opens to brick infilling, as earlier access to 3009-11 M Street through party wall has been closed.
- 6. Lighting: Modern incandescent.

7. Heating: Steam heating. Round-arched brick fireplace on east foundation wall of basement is north of flat-arched brick fireplace on same wall. Both are very simple in design and may date from construction of building. Third-floor fireplace on east wall appears to be above flat-arched basement fireplace; it is of brick, 2'-10" square opening, with elaborate wooden mantel frame; brick hearth.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The Ross and Getty Building faces south onto M Street N.W. between 30th and 31st Streets near the east end of the Georgetown commercial district. With the identically-massed structure to the east, the building forms an impressive architectural ensemble amid buildings of lesser character.
2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: None extant.
4. Walks: Fronts on concrete public sidewalk to the south.
5. Landscaping. None.

Prepared by Thomas R. Martinson
Student Assistant Architect
National Park Service
August 29, 1966

Addendum to
Ross and Getty Building
3005-3011 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C.

HABS No. DC-113

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